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HEALTH
26 MAY 1944

ABRIDGED REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE RURAL AREA

OF

SALISBURY AND WILTON

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER

1943.

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SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.

Medical Officer of Health :—G. NAPIER, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.(R.C.P.&S.) C.T.M.&H.

"Glenorchy," Shaftesbury Road,
WILTON.
Phone—Wilton 112.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :—J. THOMPSON,
Phone—Salisbury 3371.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :—J. A. FURLEY,
A. T. BOORE,
(Recalled to the Colours, Oct., 1939).
Cpl. R.A.M.C., Sanitary Section.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :—H. SHARRAT,
(Joined R.A.F. Dec., 1940).
Flt. Lieut. R.A.F., on Active Service.

Offices :—35, CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY.
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Abridged Report

for the Year ended December, 1943, on Public Health Matters in the Combined Rural District of Salisbury and Wilton.

Composition of the Area.

The area in acres is 110,163 (approx).
Rateable value of the district—£78,081 os. od.
Penny rate yields approximately £352 os. 6d

Vital Statistics to December, 1943.

Births.

The birth-rate was 19·8, which compares with 17·5 last year, and with the figure of 19·4 given by the Registrar General for smaller towns, etc. The following are the figures for this year:—

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	300	141	159	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 19·4
Illegitimate	31	16	15	
Stillbirths—Legitimate	10	7	3	Rate per 1.000 live & still births 29·3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	201	87	114	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 12.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal Causes ...	1	2·9
Total	1	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Number of deaths...(7 legitimate, 1 illegitimate) ...	8
All infants per 1,000 live births	24
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	32

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...19
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	... 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	... 0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years) ...	... 0

Particulars of Death.

The chief causes of death were :—

	Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease	33%	31%
Cancer	17%	9%
Tuberculosis	4%	1·5%

Details of Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer spends his whole time in Public Health work, being Medical Officer for the neighbouring Rural Districts of Mere and Tisbury, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England, Certificates of Tropical Medicine and of Tropical Hygiene, London, etc.

There is a fully qualified Chief Sanitary Inspector. He is a Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, and holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sanitary Inspector), the Meat Inspector's Certificate, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, Advanced Sanitary Science and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

Mr. Saunders, the Additional Sanitary Inspector, resigned his appointment in November upon obtaining the appointment as Chief Sanitary Inspector to Ludlow R.D.C. Mr. J. A. Furley of Bridgewater R.D.C. has been appointed in his place and took up his duties on 1st March, 1944.

The other Assistant is a Sergeant in the Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C., and the Pupil Assistant is now a Fl/Lt. R.A.F., on active service in the Mediterranean.

There is a Chief Female Clerk and Shorthand-Typist in the Sanitary Inspector's Office. The duties of Local Fuel Overseer are carried out by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, with the Chief Clerk as Deputy Fuel Overseer.

Piped Water Supplies.

The remarks of 1942 as to Pitton, Farley and Whiteparish water supplies are again applicable. The Parishes of Quidhampton, Stratford-sub-Castle, and parts of Laverstock and Netherhampton, have a bulk supply from Salisbury; Dinton from Mr. D. Combes' supply, West Dean from Norman Court Estate supply; and Alderbury from the Earl of Radnor's supply.

The Council's Consulting Engineers, i.e. Messrs. Lemon & Blizard of London and Southampton, have been instructed to consider and report on the question of a comprehensive scheme for the major portion of the remaining parishes without a piped water supply, the Council being fully alive to this very essential post-war work.

Analyst's Report on Water Supplies.

Number of supplies sampled	27
Number of Good samples...	24
Number of Bad samples	3
Number of Bad samples which showed a Good analysis following remedial works .. .	3
Number still receiving remedial work	—

Quarterly samples are taken of the Council's own four parish supplies and the whole of these during 1943 were consistently good.

The remaining samples were chiefly for temporary occupation certificates for the housing of peoples from bombed areas. A satisfactory analyst's report is also insisted upon for any reconstructed dwellings.

House Refuse and Salvage Collection.

This work like all other has not been without its difficulties as the Council's Contractor is still retained by the Army Authorities but whilst from time to time we have had minor complaints, it can be safely said that on the whole the collection of house refuse and salvage has been efficiently maintained. In addition to shortage of labour there is also the economy in the use of petrol to be strictly adhered to. The remarks in the 1942 report as to Salvage Stewards and collection are again applicable to the 1943 report.

From the perusal of the totals given on the next page, when it is remembered that there is only one vehicle and two men to do the whole of the refuse collection for the Council's area, it will be realised that it is not always easy to keep refuse collection and salvage running smoothly.

The following materials have been salvaged during the period under review :—

		tons.	cwts.
Paper	..	98	
Scrap Iron	...	70	
Bottles & Jars	...	675 doz.	
Tins ...	..	60	
Bones	...	7	
Rags ...	...	12	
Rubber...	...	8	10
Lead ...	...		10

Meat and other Food Inspections.

From the figures given it will be seen that in addition to meat inspected at the Government Slaughterhouse and at the Government Bacon Factory, Downton, there is also a small amount of tinned foods from the various buffer dumps in our district. The amounts that have had to be condemned in its entirety is very small in comparison with what is being stored.

The total amount of meat condemned compares very favourably with the amounts of the last three years.

Animals Slaughtered.

		Number Killed.		Average per week.
Bovines	...	4,775	...	92
Calves	...	13,535	...	260
Pigs	...	15,509	...	298
Sheep	...	15,483	...	298
Total		49,302		948

Meat Condemned.

	Amount lbs.	Tuber-culosis	Fever & Dropsy	Bruising & Injury	Mori-bund	Jaundice &Fevered	Imma-ture.	Liver &Flukes
Beef	139,266	72½%	15%	7½%	2%			3%
Veal	3,722	60%	5%	10%	17½%	2½%	5%	
Pork	34,291	88%	5%	2½%	2½%	2%		
Mutton	7,616		82½%	5%	10%	2½%		

TINNED FOOD—

The following amounts of tinned food were condemned at various Buffer Dumps :—

Meat (Beef and Mutton) ...	2953½	lbs.
Fish ...	2	lbs.
Beans	1	lb.
Milk (Dried)	3	lbs.
Milk (Condensed) .	1¾	pts.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 27 T.T. Herds, an increase of 12 over 1942, and 61 Accredited Herds, a decrease of 9, but all of these have been transferred to the T T. Division.

Quarterly samples are taken under the Accredited Scheme on behalf of the Wilts County Council ; advisory visits are also made and in spite of the shortage of labour and material, the standard of Cowsheds and Dairies is definitely on the up-grade.

Number on registers :—

Cow-keepers	293
Cow-keepers and purveyors ...	67
Milk purveyors only	10
Total ...	370

Housing.

There have been no new buildings due to private enterprise in 1943.

There are however, in six Parishes selected by the War Agricultural Committee, 12 cottages in course of erection.

There have been completed two cottages at Netherhampton, and three at Stratford Tony—reconstructions under the Rural Workers' Act. A further two are in process of reconstruction at Bowerchalke, and one house has been reconstructed at Stratford Tony without a grant under the Rural Workers' Act.

Temporary Permits due to blitz conditions.

During the past year 21 permits were renewed, 9 new permits were issued and 6 permits were cancelled, leaving a total of 30 permits for people in temporary occupation.

Before any permit is issued a satisfactory analyst's report on the water supply is insisted upon and in cases where adverse reports have been received, advice on the necessary remedial works is given.

The conduct of the persons holding temporary permits has been satisfactory on the whole, during the past year.

Complaints.

During the past year some 66 complaints were received, 44 of which were written and the remainder verbal.

Out of this total, upon investigation 8 were found to be without any justification in fact, and of the remainder informal notices were sufficient to get the complaints rectified.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic; this has been the case for the last thirteen years.

Disease	Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	7	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Erysipelas	5	3	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	12	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Measles	50	0	0
Whooping Cough	32	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Encephalitis	1	0	0
Vincents Angina	2	2	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0				
1				
5				2
10				
15 ...		1		1
20 ...		2		
25 ..	2	2		
35			1	
45 ...				
55 ..	2			
65 & upwards	1			
Totals ...	5	5	1	3

There were two female deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.